

Appl. No. : 10/642,799
Filed : August 18, 2003

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-119. (Canceled)

120. (Previously Presented) A method of supporting a semiconductor wafer, comprising:

supporting a wafer on a susceptor;

permitting gas to flow through the susceptor between regions above and below the susceptor;

supporting the susceptor on a plurality of support arms that extend generally radially outward and upward from an upper section of a substantially vertical shaft, a central vertical axis of the shaft being aligned with a central vertical axis of the susceptor, the arms engaging the susceptor such that rotation of the shaft about the central vertical axis of the shaft causes the susceptor to rotate about the central vertical axis of the susceptor, wherein gas flows through one or more of the support arms; and

rotating the shaft about the central vertical axis of the shaft.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 120, further comprising providing radiant energy to the wafer and susceptor.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 120, wherein the support arms and the shaft are transparent to radiant energy.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 120, wherein supporting the wafer on the susceptor comprises supporting the wafer on a plurality of spacers extending upwardly from an upper surface of the susceptor, such that the wafer is slightly spaced from the upper surface.

124. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 120, wherein permitting gas to flow through the susceptor comprises permitting gas to flow through one or more gas flow passages in the susceptor, each of the one or more passages having an upper opening at an upper surface of the susceptor and a lower opening at a lower surface of the susceptor.

125. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 124, wherein the one or more passages include horizontal channels inside the susceptor.

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126. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 120, wherein supporting the susceptor comprises inserting upper ends of the support arms into cavities within a lower surface of the susceptor, each of the cavities positioned along a circle centered on the central vertical axis of the shaft.

127. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 120, wherein one or more of the support arms are hollow.